

23. NOTES ON RARE PLANTS FROM MADHYA PRADESH

During the floristic studies made recently in Raigarh District, Eastern Madhya Pradesh, many rare plants hitherto not reported in literature on this area were recorded. The present paper deals with nine taxa of flowering plants, and each is provided with a short description and other relevant data. All the specimens cited are deposited in the Herbarium of the Central Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad (BSA).

ACANTHACEAE

Aechmanthera gossypina (Nees) Nees in Wall. Pl. As. Rar. 3: 87. 1832. *Ruellia gossypina* Nees in Wall. Pl. As. Rar. 1: 38. t. 42. 1829. *Aechmanthera tomentosa* Nees in Wall. Pl. As. Rar. 3: 87. 1832; C. B. Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 4: 428. 1884 (incl. var. *wallichii*).

Erect undershrubs; stems villous or tomentose. Leaves 8-10 x 3-4 cm, elliptic-lanceolate, acute, rounded at base, crenate, tomentose. Panicles to 30 cm long. Bracts and bracteoles linear. Calyx 8-12 mm long, glandular-hairy. Corolla 2.0-2.5 cm long. Capsules 8 mm long, 8-seeded.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Himalayas.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Champa, 950 m., *Sen Gupta* 16516.

LAMIACEAE

Ajuga macrosperma Wall. ex Benth. var. *breviviflora* Hook. f. Brit. India 4: 704. 1885; Mukherjee in Rec. bot. Surv. India 14: 226. 1940.

Erect or procumbent herbs; stems grooved, glabrous at base, hairy towards the apex. Leaves 4-10 x 2-5 cm, elliptic-oblong or ovate,

base decurrent to the petiole, serrate; petioles 1.5-3.0 cm long. Spikes to 8 cm long. Corolla blue, often hairy; tube as long as or longer than the calyx, inflated at the base; upper lip 2-lobed. Stamens exserted. Nutlets pitted.

Distribution: Eastern Himalayas, Bihar.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Jashpur, 625 m, *Arora* 3827.

RUBIACEAE

Argostemma courtallense Arn. in Ann. Nat. Hist. 3: 22. 1839; Wight, Ic. t. 1160. 1846; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 3: 42. 1880.

Slender, erect, sparsely pubescent herbs; roots tuberous. Leaves opposite or in whorls of four, subsessile, 4-7 x 2-5 cm, orbicular or ovate-elliptic, subacute, membranous. Flowers in terminal umbels, 4-merous. Bracts foliaceous. Calyx campanulate; corolla white, rotate. Stamens inserted at the base of corolla-tube, exserted; anthers dehiscing by terminal pores. Capsules crowned by the limb of calyx.

Distribution: South India.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Kharra, 200 m, *Rathakrishnan* 21058.

RHIZOPHORACEAE

Carallia brachiata (Lour.) Merr. in Philip. J. Sci. Bot. 15: 249. 1919. *Diatoma brachiata* Lour. Fl. Cochinch. 296. 1790. *Carallia integerrima* DC. Prodr. 3: 33. 1828; Bedd. Fl. Sylv. t. 193. 1872; Henslow in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 439. p.p. 1878.

Trees 3-5 m high. Leaves 5-10 x 2.5-5.0 cm, obovate or ovate-elliptic, shortly acute, margins revolute, coriaceous, shining. Flowers sessile in axillary, trichotomous cymes. Calyx

— tube campanulate; lobes 7. Petals white, orbicular, lacerate. Stamens 14. Stigma 4-5 — lobed. Berries globose, unilocular, one-seeded.

Distribution: Eastern Himalayas, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, South India.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Bhubdeopur, 250 m, *Rathakrishnan* 19713.

Figs sessile in axillary pairs, 1.2-1.6 cm across, subglobose or ovoid, red. Basal bracts 2-3, minute or one enlarged.

Distribution: Assam, Bihar, South India.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Kailasnatheswar gufa, 1200 m, *Rathakrishnan* 24504.

LOGANIACEAE

URTICACEAE

Elatostema cuneatum Wight, Ic. t. 2091, f. 3. 1853; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 5: 568. 1888; Mitra in Bull. bot. Surv. India 9: 279-280 1967 (1968).

Slender, erect annuals, monoecious. Leaves subsessile, 2-4 x 0.8-1.5 cm, falcately cuneate, crenate-serrate in the upper part, sparsely setose above with linear cystoliths on both sides; lower leaves smaller than the upper ones, nearly entire. Stipules ovate. Flowers minute, regular on axillary capitate receptacles. Involucral bracts 2-4, ovate-oblong, cucullate. Male flowers: perianth-lobes 4, broadly ovate; stamens 4. Female flowers: perianth lobes 3, shorter than the ovary. Achenes ellipsoid, red.

Distribution: Sikkim, West Bengal, South India.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Bhubdeopur, 250 m, *Rathakrishnan* 21228.

MORACEAE

Ficus benjamina L. var. *comosa* (Roxb.) Kurz, For. Fl. Burma 2: 446. 1877; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 5: 508. 1888. *F. comosa* Roxb. Pl. Cor. 2: 14. t. 125. 1798; Wight, Ic. t. 658. 1843.

Large trees with drooping branches. Leaves 5-10 x 2-4 cm, ovate-elliptic, abruptly acuminate, subcordate at base, obscurely 3-ribbed.

Mitrasacme pygmaea R. Br. var. *malaccensis* (Wight) Hara in J. Jap. Bot. 30: 204. 1955; Back. & Bakh. f. Fl. Java 2: 208. 1965. *M. malaccensis* Wight, Ic. t. 1601. 1850. *M. polymorpha* sensu C. B. Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 4: 80. 1883, *p.p.*, non R. Br. 1810.

Slender hispid annuals. Leaves 7-10 mm long, ovate-lanceolate, serrulate. Flowers in terminal pseudo-umbels, 4-merous. Corolla campanulate, white; lobes rounded, hairy within. Stamens 4, exserted. Styles 2, free at the base, connate above the middle. Capsules globose, crowned by the styles. Seeds ellipsoid, punctate.

Distribution: South India.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Sarainadi, 275 m, *Rathakrishnan* 21049.

LYTHRACEAE

Rotala occultiflora Koehne in Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 1: 152. 1881.

Small herbs 4-10 cm high. Leaves verticillate, 5-12 mm long, linear-lanceolate, rounded at base. Flowers in axillary cymes. Bracteoles 2-4 mm long, lanceolate, longer than the calyx. Calyx-lobes 5, ovate. Petals 0. Stamens 2-4.

Capsules 2-3 valved.

Distribution: South India.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Senna, 750 m, *Sen Gupta* 16481.

CAMPANULACEAE

Wahlenbergia erecta (Roth ex Roem. & Schult.) Tuyn in Steenis, Fl. Males. (ser. 1) 6: 113. 1960. *Dentella erecta* Roth ex Roem. & Schult. Syst. Veg. 5: 25. 1819. *Cephalostigma schimperi* Hochst. ex A. Rich. Tent. Fl. Abyss. 2: 2. 1851; C. B. Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 3: 428. 1881.

Erect annuals. Leaves subsessile, spirally arranged, 5-20 x 1.5-6.0 mm, oblong-elliptic,

dentate-crenate. Flowers usually solitary or in lax cymes. Calyx-lobes linear-triangular, sparsely hairy. Corolla campanulate, bluish. Capsules 2-3 mm long, obconic, hispid. Seeds ellipsoid, compressed.

Distribution: Eastern Himalayas, Bihar, South India.

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Raigarh Dist., Bagicha, 600 m, *Sen Gupta* 16451.

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RAM SARAN

24. *ERIOCAULON ECHINULATUM* MART. (ERIOCAULACEAE)
— A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

(With eight text-figures)

This note records the occurrence of *Eriocaulon echinulatum* Mart. in Balphakram Wild Life Sanctuary in Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Hooker (Fl. Brit. India 6: 579. 1893) reported this species based on a collection of Wallich (Wall. Cat. No. 6082) from Kalaben in Burma. There are no collections of this either in the Herbarium of Botanical Survey of India at Shillong (ASSAM) or at the Central National Herbarium (CAL) from the Indian region. Therefore, the present collection from Meghalaya forms the first report of its occurrence from India, and is described here.

Eriocaulon echinulatum Mart. in Wall. Pl. As. Rar. 3: 29. 1832; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 579. 1893; Fyson in Journ. Ind. Bot. Soc. 2: 317. t. 47. 1921.

Roots fibrous, tufted. Scapes 5-10 cm high, stout, striate, twisted, glabrous, hairy only be-

low the head. Leaves radical, 2-3 x 0.2-0.4 cm, subulate, acute, with distinct cross nervules. Sheaths as long as leaves. Heads 4-6 mm across, straw-coloured, with distinct, stellately radiating bracts. Receptacle villous. Involucral bracts lanceolate, ending in long aristate, glistening apex; floral bract longer than flowers, narrowed at base, abruptly narrowed to an elongate apex. Male flower: sepal 1, rounded or crenate; petals reduced to hairs or deformed; staminal column as long as sepals, slightly narrower towards villous base; stamens 6, at the top of the staminal column; anthers 2-celled, elliptic, black. Female flowers: sepals 2, falcately lanceolate, clawed, winged at the back, with serrate margin; petals 0 or reduced to hairs, partly concealing the ovary; ovary 3-celled, straw-coloured; style stout, 3-fid. Capsule triangular, truncate, membranous; seed